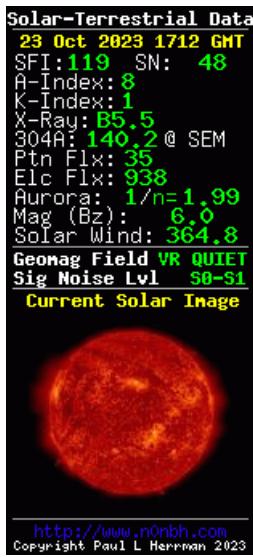




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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

For October 20, 2023 to October 27, 2023

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article. The articles are ordered by the entity's *official* callsign prefix, callsigns used are in **bold**, and dates of operation are highlighted in red. Hot links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Articles will remain in *The Bulletin* while active with a 5-week maximum.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>.

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Quick jump to:

[Propagation](#)

[Contest Calendar](#)

3A, MONACO. During October all Monaco amateur radio operators are allowed to use the special call sign **3A7ØARM** to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Association des Radioamateurs de Monaco. Activity may be on 80 meters to 10 GHz using all modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 39 September 28, 2023] (0929-1027)

3V, TUNISIA. Philipp, DK6SP will be QRV from the **3V8CB** club station in Tunis during the 2023 JOTA/JOTI event. QSL via operator's instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1027)

3W, VIETNAM. Emmanuel, F4WBL is QRV as **XV9R** from Ho Chi Minh City. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 40 October 5, 2023] (1006-1027)

5X, UGANDA. Anders, SMØHPL is active again as **5X7W** from Uganda until October 27th. He operates QRP with "weak but hopefully readable signals. Patience is needed on both sides!". QSL via [MØOXO's QRSS](#); QSOs will be uploaded also to ClubLog, LoTW and eQSL.
-[425DXN # 1691 September 30, 2023] (0929-1027)

A2, BOTSWANA. The Russian DXpedition Team will be active again as **A25RU** from Botswana from **October 26th to November 12th**. Seven operators (namely R5EC, R7AL, RA1ZZ, RW9JZ, UA3QLC, OK8AU and SP6EQZ) will be QRV on 160-6 meters CW and SSB with three stations, and digital modes (mainly FT8) with six or seven stations. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#). See <https://www.rudxt.com/a25ru> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1117)

A5, BHUTAN. Abie, AB1F is QRV as **A52AA** from Thimphu **until October 27th**. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to [AB1E](#); he will upload his log to LoTW, eQSL, ClubLog.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1027)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Serhiy, UW5EHR is a member of the XXVIII Ukrainian Antarctic Expedition (2023-24) at the Akademik Vernadskyi station on Galindez Island (AN-006), Antarctica. He will remain there **through March 2024**. Briefly active as VP8/UW5EHR, he has used the club station's callsign **EM1U** since October 7th. He operates FT8, FT4 and SSB on 40-10 meters. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1693 October 14, 2023] (1013-1103)

CEØY, EASTER ISLAND. Luis, CE2ML and Mathias, CE2LR will be active as **XRØY** from Easter Island (SA-001) on **October 22nd-29th**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th) as **3GØY**. They will operate CW, SSB and some FT8 on the HF bands. QSL both callsigns via [CE2ML](#).

-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1020-1103)

CT3, MADEIRA ISLANDS. Helmut, DF7EE will be active again as **CT9/DF7EE** from Madeira (AF-014) on **October 22nd-31st**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th) as **CQ3W**. Before and after the contest he will focus on 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters SSB and FT8. QSL both callsigns via LoTW and [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1020-1103)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of October 20, 2023:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. PYØT	Trindade & Martim Vaz Islands
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. KP5	Desecheo Island
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. VP8S	South Sandwich Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF October 20, 2023] (1020-1103)

E5/N, NORTH COOK ISLANDS. Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as **E51JAN** from Manihiki (OC-014), North Cook Islands from **October 12th to November 6th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#). See <https://e5n.dxpeditions.org/> for more information and updates.

-[425DXN # 1686 August 26, 2023] (1011-1110)

E6, NIUE. Stan, LZ1GC, and Dimo, LZ1ON, activate Niue as **E6AM** on **October 10th to 23rd**. QRV on 160-6m on CW, SSB, and FT8. For more information see: <http://www.c21gc.com>. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or [LZ1GC](#).

-[DXNL # 2374 October 4, 2023] (1006-1027)

F, FRANCE. The special event stations **TM23RBY** (QSL via [F8EFU](#)), **TM23RUGB** (QSL via [F5KHG](#)), and **TM63RWC** (QSL via [F4KLW](#)) operate around the Rugby World

Championship until October 28th on 160-6m and via QO-100.
-[DXNL # 2372 September 20, 2023] (0922-1027)

FG, GUADELOUPE. Once again Philippe, F1DUZ will be active as **FG4KH** from Guadeloupe (NA-102) from **October 17th to November 7th**, including participation in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or via [F1DUZ](#).
-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1013-1109)

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Jun OE1JUN/JH4RHF will be active from Honiara (OC-047) as **H44RH** from **October 23rd until probably October 31st**, running 100 watts into wires. He also plans to be active as **H4ØRH** from Pigeon Island (OC-065), Temotu Province, tentatively on **November 1st-9th**: "there might be several options to go to Temotu", he says. "Most probably I need to arrange it next week in Honiara to see the best option at that moment". Check <https://www.qrz.com/db/H40RH> for updates. He will operate mainly CW, possibly with SSB activity during the CQ WW DX Contest (October 28th-29th) and FT8 on 6 meters if the band is open. QSLs via [OE1JUN](#).
-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1103)

H4Ø, TEMOTU. Due to changes in flight schedules, the new operational dates for the Intrepid DX Group's DXpedition to the Temotu Province [425DXN 1656] are from **October 26th to November 9th**. Look for team **H4ØWA** (DJ9RR, K3VN, N6PSE, N7QT, OE1JUN/JH4RHF, VE7NY, W7XU and WD5COV) to operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (F/H) on 160-6 meters with up to five stations and "a significant effort on the low bands". They also plan to be active during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th). QSL via [MØURX's QRSS](#) (see the expedition's website for the detailed QSL policy). Donations are gratefully accepted; for more information and updates see <https://intrepid-dx.com/temotu2023> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/h40wa>.
-[425DXN # 1679 July 8, 2023] (1020-1113)

HR, HONDURAS. Yuri, VE3DZ will be active as **HQ9A** from Roatan Island (NA-057), Honduras on **October 19th-31st**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th). Outside the contest he will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on the HF bands. QSL via [VE3DZ](#); plans are to upload the log to LoTW and ClubLog.
-[425DXN # 1691 September 30, 2023] (1020-1103)

I, ITALY. Italian stations participating in this year's JOTA/JOTI event (October 20th-22nd, <https://www.jotajoti.info/>) include **IIØBP**, **II2JOT**, **II2JOTA**, **II3BP**, **II5BP**, **II5JOTA**, **II6BP**, **II7BP**, **II7JAM**, **II9BP**, **IO4JOTA** and **IR2JOTA**. QSL via operator's instructions.
-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1027)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Roma (IQØRM) will operate special event station **IIØMKFR** from Maker Faire Rome - The European Edition on **October 20th-22nd** (<https://makerfairerome.eu/en/>).
-[425DXN # 1693 October 14, 2023] (1020-1027)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Pordenone and ARI Belluno will be active as **II3RDV** on **October 1st-31st**. The special callsign memorializes the 60th anniversary of the Vajont Dam disaster (October 9, 1963, when a massive landslide plunged into the reservoir, causing a 250-meter high mega-tsunami that killed some 2000 people). QSL via [IV3EHH](#).
-[425DXN # 1689 September 16, 2023] (0929-1103)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active from the Miyako Islands (AS-079) from **October 6th to December 19th**. He will operate SSB and CW as **JS6RRR**, **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** and **JR8YLY/6**, as well as **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p** and **JR8YLY/p** on FT8. The QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW Matching on the IOTA website.

-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1006-1027)

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Kou, JP1IHD will be active again as **JD1BQP** from Chichijima (AS-031) Ogasawara from **October 26th to November 2nd**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th). QSL via the bureau to JD1BQP, or direct only to [JP1IHD](#); he will upload his log to LoTW and ClubLog.
-[425DXN # 1689 September 16, 2023] (1020-1103)

LX, LUXEMBOURG. Once again HB9S (the Geneva based World Scout Bureau Global Support Centre) has been invited to take part in the JOTA-JOTI weekend (**October 20th-22nd**) in Luxembourg. Look for **LX9S** to be active with several stations on the HF bands SSB, CW, FT8 and SSTV, and also via QO-100. QSL via LoTW (preferred), or via [HB9AOF](#).
-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1020-1027)

OE, AUSTRIA. Station **OE2XWL** is QRV from Salzburg **until October 22nd** for the 2023 JOTA/JOTI event. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1027)

ON, BELGIUM. The ONZ Oostkust Radioclub (ON6HC) will be active on all bands and modes as **OR79CLM** from **October 13th until November 12th**, with main operations taking place on November 3rd-5th. The special callsign's suffix stands for Canadian Liberation March, the annual event that celebrates the liberation of the Belgian town of Knokke on November 1, 1944. QSL via the bureau. A certificate will be available:

<https://www.onz.be/or79clm-award-request/>.

-[425DXN # 1691 September 30, 2023] (1013-1110)

P4, ARUBA. John, W2GD will be active again as **P4ØW** from Aruba (SA-036) on **October 24th – 30th**. Main activity will be during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th); outside the contest he will be QRV on 160m CW, as well as on 30, 17 and 12 meters as time permits. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [N2MM](#).

-[425DXN # 1693 October 14, 2023] (1020-1103)

PACIFIC TRIP. Uli, DL2AH is going to be active again from the Pacific:

KH2/DL2AH Guam (OC-026), **September 16th – 30th**

V7... Majuro (OC-029), Marshall Is. **October 3rd – 15th**

V63AH Kosrae (OC-059), Micronesia **October 18th – 30th**

He will operate SSB and FT8 on 80-6 meters. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to [DL2AH](#).

-[425DXN # 1685 August 19, 2023] (0915-1103)

PJ2, CURACAO. EIDX member Rich, W3ACO will be active again at **PJ2T** with his daughter Melissa, W7MAH and University of Iowa ARC YL op Paige, KØPZH. They will be active on 20m and 15m SSB before the contest as **PJ2/W3ACO**, **PJ2/W7MAH** and **PJ2/KØPZH** beginning **October 23rd**. They will then be part of the multi-multi operation at PJ2T during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th), which will also include ops WØCG, VE4GV, WX4W, W5GAI, W4IPC and KG5XR. The QSL route will be announced later.

-[KØCF October 21, 2023] (1020-1103)

PJ5, SABA & ST. EUSTATIUS. John, W5JON will be active again as **PJ5/W5JON** from Saint Eustatius (NA-145) on **October 25th-31st**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on 60-6m. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W5JON](#).

-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1103)

PZ, SURINAME. Renato, PY8WW will be QRV as **PZ5TW** from **October 25th to November 3rd**. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being a Single Op/Single Band on 15 meters entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX

contest (October 28th-29th). QSL via [ClubLog's QRSS](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1103)

S2, BANGLADESH. Sajid, **S21VZ** is QRV from Dhaka and has been active on 12 meters using FT8 around 1600z. QSL via [EA5GL](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 40 October 5, 2023] (1006-1027)

S7, SEYCHELLES. Kamil, S79KW is QRV with special callsign **S76P** during October to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness. Station **S77HQ** will also be QRV during this event. QSL [S76P](#) direct and S77HQ via [S79JKN](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1103)

T2, TUVALU. A large group of operators will be QRV as **T2C** from Funafuti Island, IOTA OC-015, from **October 10th to 30th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations. See <https://t2c.mydx.de/> for detailed QSL policy, more information, and updates. QSL via [ClubLog's QRSS](#) (preferred), or via [DL4SVA](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 40 October 5, 2023] (1006-1103)

T32, EASTERN KIRIBATI. Ken, KH6QJ is QRV as **T32AZ** until October 24th. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using SSB. He plans to be active in upcoming various USA state QSO parties. QSL to [KH6QJ](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 41 October 12, 2023] (1013-1027)

V4, SAINT KITTS & NEVIS. Ed, N2HX is QRV as **V4/N2HX** from Saint Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until November 11th. Activity is on the HF bands. He will be active as **V49R** as a Single Op/Low Power entry in the upcoming CQ WW SSB DX Contest (October 28th-29th). QSL to [N2HX](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1110)

V6, MICRONESIA. Cezar, VE3LYC will be active as **V62P** from Pulap Atoll (OC-155) from **October 25th to November 2nd**, and as **V62S** from Satawal Atoll (OC-299) on **November 4th-10th**. Johan, PA3EXX will be the pilot station: Cezar will be unable to check his personal email account, so "those who wish to make a report or inform me of various issues" should send their messages to willemsen@multiweb.nl. Donations to help offset the costs of this complex and expensive project are gratefully accepted:
<https://v6iota.weebly.com>

-[425DXN # 1687 September 2, 2023] (1020-1110)

V6, MICRONESIA. Members of the Yokohama DX Club will be active as **V6SX** from Weno Island (OC-011), Micronesia on **October 23rd-31st** to celebrate their club's 50th anniversary. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8/FT4 on 80-6m (hopefully also on 160 and/or 60m) and will participate in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th) as V6Y. QSL via [ClubLog's QRSS](#) and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1693 October 14, 2023] (1020-1103)

V6, MICRONESIA. Ulrich, DL2AH is QRV as **V63AH** from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, until October 30th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL direct to [DL2AH](#). In addition, members of the Yokohama DX Club will be QRV as **V6SX** from Weno Island, IOTA OC-011, from October 22nd to 31st to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters, and possibly 160 and 60 meters, using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. They plan to be active as **V6Y** in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest (October 28th-29th). QSL via LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1103)

VE, CANADA. Pierre, VK3KTB and Alexey VE1RUS will be active again as **VYØERC** from the Eureka Amateur Radio Club station on Ellesmere Island (NA- 008) from **October 21st to November 22nd**. QSL via [MØOXO's QRSS](#).

-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1124)

VK, AUSTRALIA. Tom, VK2WN (SP7WT) will be active as **AX37EUDXF** from **October 15th until November 30th** to celebrate the 37th anniversary of the European DX Foundation. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, [ClubLog's OQRS](#). He does not use the bureau.
-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1124)

VU, INDIA. Special event station **AT30IIH** is QRV **until December 31st** from Vasanthapura to celebrate 30 years of the non-stop ham radio movement in India. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 40 October 5, 2023] (1006-1027)

XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO is now QRV as **XT2AW** from Ouagadougou **until October 26th**. Activity is on the HF bands using all modes. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 41 October 12, 2023] (1013-1027)

XW, LAOS. Simon, **XWØLP** is QRV from Luang Prabang while working as a school teacher. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL via [MØOXO](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 40 October 5, 2023] (1006-1027)

YB, INDONESIA. Gianpi, IK1TTD will be active holiday style as **YB2/IK1TTD** from Pulau Menyawakan in the Karimunjawa Group on **October 8th-22nd**. He will be QRV mainly on 20 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [IK1TTD](#). Please note that IOTA Management has provisionally accepted Menyawakan as a new counter for OC-186 and will add it to the IOTA Directory at the end of the operation.
-[425DXN # 1688 September 9, 2023] (1006-1027)

YJ, VANUATU. Chris, VK2YUS will be active again as **YJØCA** from Port Vila (OC-035) Vanuatu from **October 22nd to November 5th**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th). He will operate SSB on 40-10 meters, mainly between 2100 UTC and 1000 UTC. QSL direct to [VK2YUS](#).
-[425DXN # 1691 September 30, 2023] (1020-1110)

YJ, VANUATU. Team **YJØTT** (NC7M and other five operators) will be active from Efate (OC-035), Vanuatu from **October 26th to November 3rd**. They will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-10 meters. Individual callsigns include **YJØSR** (N7JI), **YJØET** (NG7E), **YJØNA** (K6VHF, who is planning to operate via satellites), **YJØUC** (W6UC) & **YJØEE** (NJ6P), who plan to be QRV on 6 meters EME ("for the very first three days to take advantage of low degradation") and terrestrial. QSL via operator's instructions. See <https://www.dxobsessed.org/home> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1692 October 7, 2023] (1020-1103)

ZD9, TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH IS. Yuris, YL2GM is QRV as **ZD9W** from Tristan da Cunha, IOTA AF-029, **until October 22nd**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 42 October 19, 2023] (1020-1027)

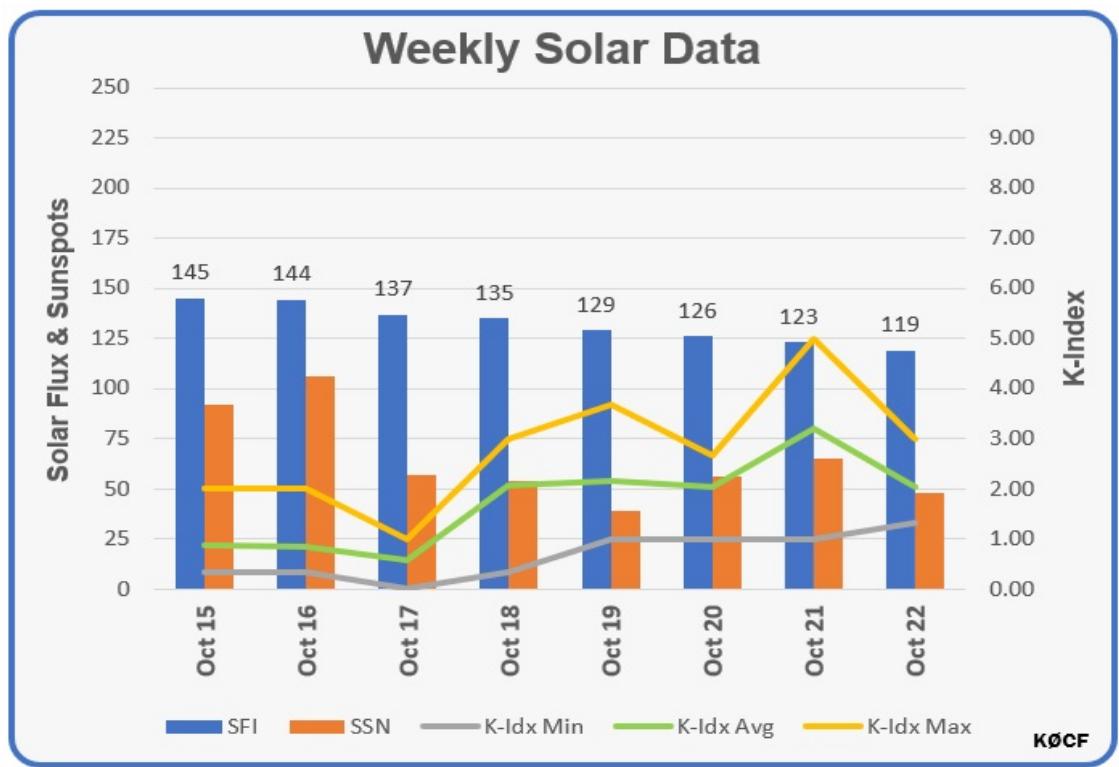
ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Rich, NN3W will be active as **ZF2RD** from Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands (NA-016) on **October 24th-31st**. He will operate CW and SSB on the HF bands and will participate in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th-29th) as **ZF2B**. QSLs via LoTW, or via [NN3W](#).
-[425DXN # 1694 October 21, 2023] (1020-1103)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Station **ZL3JOTA** is QRV **until October 22nd** from the North Taranaki Pre-Jamboree camp and the Mangorei Cricket Grounds during the JOTA/JOTI event. QSL via operators' instructions.

ZL7, CHATHAM ISLANDS. Holger, ZL3IO will be active again as **ZL7IO** from Waitangi, Chatham Islands (OC-038) from **October 25th to October 29th**, after the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th–29th). QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's QRSS](#), or via [DK7AO](#).
-[425DXN # 1693 October 14, 2023] (1020-1103)

ZL7, CHATHAM ISLANDS. Jacek, SP5EAQ will be active as **ZL7/SP5EAQ** from Waitangi, Chatham Islands (OC-038) from **October 20th to November 3rd**. He will operate SSB on 80-10 meters, including an entry in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 28th–29th). See <http://chathams.sp7dqr.pl/> for more information. QSL via [SP7DQR](#), QRSS on <http://sp7dqr.pl/en/qrss.php>, and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1681 July 22, 2023] (1020-1103)

Propagation



October 23, 2023

The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (K-Idx) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

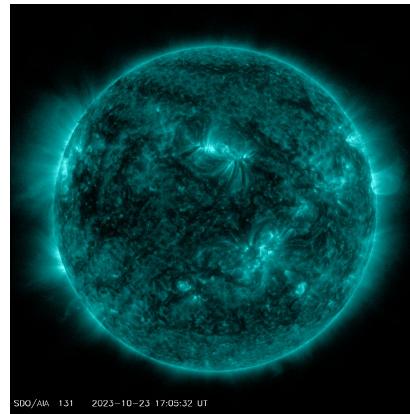
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

NASA's current view of
the Sun at a wave-

length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Sunday, October 15th through yesterday, October 22nd.

The average solar flux was down 25 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 145 on Sunday, October 15th, followed by a low of 119 on October 22nd.

The average sunspot count was down by 55 points for the week, peaking at 106 on Monday, October 16th followed by a weekly low of 39 on October 19th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.8 with a maximum of 5.0 on Saturday, October 21st, resulting in minor geomagnetic storm conditions.

Solar flare activity since October 15th has been quiet with no major flares.

You may have noticed that solar flare and sunspot activity has recently subsided and we have a very quiet sun right now. Is Cycle 25 coming to an early demise? No, not at all! This is just a normal variation of solar activity which occurs during most sunspot cycles – even the very strongest ones. Be patient and the sunspot activity will escalate as we head toward the pinnacle of Cycle 25 next year and into 2025.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Sunday, October 15th through 0427 UTC, October 23.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
None Reported			

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Oct 23	5%	1%	120
Oct 24	5%	1%	125
Oct 25	5%	1%	130

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA once a week on Monday.

Date	Flux	Kp

Oct 23	120	3
Oct 24	125	3
Oct 25	130	2
Oct 26	135	2
Oct 27	135	4
Oct 28	135	3
Oct 29	140	3
Oct 30	140	3
Oct 31	142	3
Nov 1	142	4
Nov 2	142	2
Nov 3	144	2

Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.

Sunspots: 227 on July 11, 2023.

Favorite Propagation web sites

Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map: <https://prop.kc2g.com/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.net/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Selected Upcoming Contests

Contest	Start	End	Web Site
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	Oct 21 0000Z	Oct 22 2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	Oct 21 0001Z	Oct 22 2359Z	Rules

New York QSO Party	Oct 21	1400Z	Oct 22	0200Z	Rules
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	Oct 21	1400Z	Oct 23	0200Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Oct 21	1500Z	Oct 22	1500Z	Rules
Illinois QSO Party	Oct 22	1700Z	Oct 23	0100Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Oct 28	0000Z	Oct 29	2359Z	Rules
Ukrainian DX Contest	Nov 4	1200Z	Nov 5	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov 4	2100Z	Nov 6	0300Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 11	0000Z	Nov 12	2359Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	Nov 11	0001Z	Nov 12	2359Z	Rules
JIDX Phone Contest	Nov 11	0700Z	Nov 12	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 11	1200Z	Nov 12	1200Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Nov 12	0000Z	Nov 12	0400Z	Rules
LZ DX Contest	Nov 18	1200Z	Nov 19	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Nov 18	2100Z	Nov 20	0300Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 25	0000Z	Nov 26	2400Z	Rules
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 1	2200Z	Dec 3	1600Z	Rules
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 9	0000Z	Dec 10	2359Z	Rules
OK DX RTTY Contest	Dec 16	0000Z	Dec 16	2400Z	Rules
Croatian CW Contest	Dec 16	1400Z	Dec 17	1400Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	Dec 17	1800Z	Dec 17	2359Z	Rules
RAC Winter Contest	Dec 30	0000Z	Dec 30	2359Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Dec 30	1500Z	Dec 31	1500Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]